

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 47, 104th Congress, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: Mr. GINGRICH of Georgia, Mr. ARMEY of Texas, and Mr. GEPHARDT of Missouri.

There was no objection.

SHAMELESS HUSTLING FOR VOTES IS MAKING A MOCKERY OF IMMIGRATION

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, last Friday's Washington Times contained a front-page article which showed me just how far the President will go to win votes. The article claimed that the Clinton administration has pressured the Immigration and Naturalization Service to speed up the standards and background checks on applicants for citizenship and to ignore other requirements in order to naturalize as many immigrants as possible before the November elections.

By taking such shortcuts, the President is putting in danger the naturalization of immigrants with criminal records and other immigrants not qualified for citizenship.

In the past year 1.3 million people have become naturalized citizens, nearly three times the number of previous years. The reason for this is a Presidential initiative called Citizenship USA, which is supposed to help legal immigrants through the naturalization process. Instead, the program is being used as a campaign tool of the Clinton campaign in hopes of winning votes of these new citizens. Complying with the directives established by this program has some INS officials feeling like the campaign workers of INS.

Becoming a U.S. citizen is a great honor, and I suspect the President will indeed receive the reward he has envisioned, but I believe that shameless hustling for votes is making a mockery of our immigration.

CORRECTIONS DAY PROCESS IS RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. EHRLICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHRLICH. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of H.R. 3056, the 18th bill brought to the floor of the House this session under the corrections day process.

Since the commencement of corrections day, the President has signed

nine bills into law, and the House has passed eight bills that are waiting further action in the Senate.

The American people are demanding a more responsive government, and corrections day is a key part in meeting their demands. H.R. 3056 provides a technical correction to the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985; it permits certain county-operated health insuring organizations in California to qualify as organizations exempt from certain otherwise applicable Medicaid requirements, even though they enroll Medicaid beneficiaries residing in another county.

I believe this bill we are considering today is a perfect example of how the corrections day process works to correct outdated regulations that place financial burdens on many industries in the United States.

I want to recognize Chairman BLILEY, Mr. RIGGS, and the Commerce Committee for the expedient and hard work they did to get this bill to the floor.

DRUG USE BY TEENAGERS IS A NATIONAL TRAGEDY

(Mr. WICKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WICKER. Madam Speaker, drug use is up, and the response from the White House is a plea not to make an issue out of it. Our children are getting hooked earlier and at rates never before seen in the history of this Nation. Overall drug use among 12- to 17-year-olds is up 78 percent since 1992.

But look at these figures. In just 1 year, 1994 to 1995, marijuana use in the same age group is up 37 percent; LSD use, again in just 1 year, up 105 percent; cocaine use, 12- to 17-year-olds, from 1994 to 1995 is up 166 percent. This is a tragedy, a national tragedy. We are losing a generation of children right before our very eyes. Drugs destroy families and they destroy lives.

Madam Speaker, this is no time to run and hide. We need to make sure that children can grow up in an environment where cocaine, LSD, and pot-smoking are not part of their daily surroundings.

WHERE ARE THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES?

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RIGGS. Madam Speaker, I think we should remember 3 weeks ago the Clinton administration released a startling report on drug abuse. It showed increases in drug use of almost unbelievable proportions. In just 1 year cocaine use among 12- to 17-year-olds has increased 166 percent; one year, 166 percent. That is completely unacceptable.

But we have to realize that when we have a President who all but ignores this problem, it is no wonder that we

have a soaring rate of drug use in America. Within just a few days of becoming President, President Clinton slashed the budget of the drug czar's office by 80 percent.

Madam Speaker, President Reagan and Mrs. Reagan proved the importance of a bully pulpit, using the Presidency as a bully pulpit. They set a standard of behavior for children of the eighties when they said, "Just say no." Today we have an administration that seems to be confused about what message they ought to deliver to our children.

It makes us wonder, Madam Speaker, where are this administration's priorities?

CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the bill on the Corrections Calendar.

COUNTY HEALTH ORGANIZATION EXEMPTION ACT

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 3056) to permit a county-operated health insuring organization to qualify as an organization exempt from certain requirements otherwise applicable to health insuring organizations under the Medicaid program notwithstanding that the organization enrolls Medicaid beneficiaries residing in another county.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3056

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMITTING COUNTY-OPERATED HEALTH INSURING ORGANIZATIONS TO ENROLL MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES RESIDING IN ANOTHER COUNTY UNDER MEDICAID WAIVER FOR CERTAIN COUNTY-OPERATED HEALTH INSURING ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9517(c)(3)(B)(ii) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (42 U.S.C. 1396b note), as added by section 4734 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, is amended by inserting "or counties" after "county".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to quarters beginning on or after October 1, 1996.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. MOORHEAD] and the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. RICHARDSON] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. MOORHEAD].

Mr. MOORHEAD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MOORHEAD asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOORHEAD. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3056.

This bill would allow a Health Insurance Organization to serve Medicaid beneficiaries residing in one or more counties. Current law, as interpreted